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News Release

CHARLES L. RICE BECOMES FIFTH USU PRESIDENT

BETHESDA, Md. – Charles L. Rice, M.D., a retired Naval Reserve Captain becomes the fifth president of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) today. USU is the nation's only fully accredited federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing.

Dr. Rice is a Navy-trained surgeon and researcher, and professor of surgery and professor of physiology and biophysics at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). His appointment approved by Dr. William J. Winkenwerder, the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, was approved by the secretary of defense after a nationwide search.

“Dr. Rice brings outstanding leadership, scholarship and medical capabilities to the university, continuing its legacy of educational excellence,” Dr. Winkenwerder said. “With his unique combination of military and civilian medical experience, he is ideally suited to the university's mission to provide high-quality medical education for the Military Health System and the challenges we face in the years ahead.”

Dr. Rice succeeds retired Navy Vice Adm. James A. Zimble, M.D., who held the office of the president for more than 13 years before retiring in August 2004. He comes to USU from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), Washington, D.C., where he was the Petersdorf Scholar-in-Residence. He also served as UIC's Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs from

1999-2004 and Vice Dean of the College of Medicine from 1994-1999. He earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia in 1968.

“Dr. Rice has outstanding credentials for this position,” said Everett Alvarez, Jr., J.D., USU’s board of regents chairman. “He is simultaneously a leader of national prominence in medical education; a medical researcher of distinction; and a long time leader in the interface between academic medicine, the practice of medicine and public policy. The university is fortunate to have attracted a scholar of his abilities to lead this fine university.”

In addition to his appointments at UIC, Dr. Rice has also held faculty appointments at the University of Chicago, the University of Washington, and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. He has authored more than 200 scientific papers, abstracts, and chapters in medical textbooks. His research interests, many funded by the National Institutes of Health, have been in the biology of lung injury and in mechanisms of cell and tissue injury in shock. His clinical focus has been in trauma and critical care. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Surgery, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a member of numerous professional organizations, including the American Surgical Association and the Society of University Surgeons, and is a past president of the Shock Society. Dr. Rice was a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow and served as a Legislative Assistant to Senator Thomas A. Daschle (D-SD) in 1991-92. He served on the Board of the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education from 1998-2004 and as its Chair from 2002-2004. His Navy awards include the Legion of Merit.

“I am deeply honored to have been selected for this important position,” Dr. Rice said. “It is a unique institution with outstanding school of medicine and graduate school of nursing faculty and students. This university serves an invaluable role in the healthcare of our country and the military services. I consider this to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to merge my academic, military and public policy interests.”

USU was established by Congress under the Department of Defense in 1972. With its motto “Learning to Care for Those in Harm’s Way,” the university has a worldwide reputation as a center of excellence for military medical education and research.

With 853 students, USU’s F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine is in the top 25% by enrollment of the 125 U.S. medical schools. The university’s Graduate School of Nursing has an enrollment of 249 including doctoral candidates and advanced practice students in nurse anesthesia, Clinical Nurse Specialist perioperative nursing and family nurse practitioner programs. Graduate education programs have 160 students enrolled who are pursuing masters and doctoral degrees in such fields as public health and tropical medicine. Research funding has risen to more than \$116-million which supports some 326 current projects.

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